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LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 6 June 1985

3. (Williams) During our visit in London last week [redacted] demonstrated for D/FBIS and me the Wang-Telecutter system in operation in the PMU. Use of this system has proven to be a major time saver both for PMU and the Communications Section. It also has greatly simplified some of the PMU tasks and has assisted in speeding or eliminating much manual processing for repetitive tasks (as with the Soviet party slogans for the May Day celebrations, see bureau's April Monthly Report) and is cutting heavily into the teletype load.

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Bill now wants to move ahead to complete the system, equipping the entire PMU with Wang terminals and with additional telecutters. D/FBIS agreed to London's finishing this project if the money need not be taken from modernization funds. Bill believes that the bureau may be able to pay for all or most of the remainder of the system. He will draft a proposal, with costs estimates, which he will send in or hold for Baker to forward.

In line with this project, [redacted] noted that the teletypists already were noting a drop-off in work load and that more will follow when the Wang system is completed. He would like to give some indication to the teletypists that they were not going to be made redundant by automation, and proposed some selective training in basic computer languages, programming and equipment maintenance. I approved this idea but added that if it became necessary in time to drop a few teletypists he should consider converting their positions into PMU translator positions.

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(cc: D/FBIS, AC/DRD, C/SDS)
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